

Loon Lake Park District Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting – Sunday, July 9th, 2023

Call to Order: Kevin called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Introduction of the LLPDA Officers and Board of Directors:

President – Kevin Wickert, Vice President – Patrick Reed, Treasurer – Mary Flynn, Secretary – Lisa Deering

Board Members: John Nick, Rich McCrum, Gail Danforth, Barb Kearney, Ken Wade, Glen Vogel, Andrea McDonough, Sue Chambers, Jim Fregoe

Community items:

Linda Meunch, of 17 Candles Birthday Club, spoke thanking the LLPDA for their support. 17 Candles charity provides children with birthday gifts through the food pantry. The program has been going on for 12 years and has provided gifts to over 250 local children. Linda is moving south and in looking for a new member went to the Rotary Club. Kate Curry has volunteered to replace Linda. Kate has lived here for 3 years and is a local bank teller. Linda is very thankful for Kate's stepping forward.

Author John Ruskowski – "Fish On". John was unable to attend the meeting. He wrote a book about 47 years of fishing life on the lake. He will be at a book signing at the Chestertown Library on August 12th.

Sadly, Michael Baumis passed away on June 25th, at 57 years old. Michael was an LLPDA board member for 15 years. He built the LLPDA website and was the technical go to person for all involved. Our condolences to his family. Michael will be missed.

Introduction of Craig Leggett, Town Supervisor:

Craig opened by saying that the good participation at the meeting is a credit to the LLPDA Board.

Dam Repair – the 2-foot flashboards are installed by May. This year, May 2023, after the first board was installed, leaks in the side wall were noticed. GZA dam works was called in. A temporary repair was made by sandbagging and caulking. The water levels in the lake were lowered to complete the work. Precipitation is needed to bring the lake levels up enough to cross the coffer dam to open the boat launch.

In 9/2021 the dam was labeled high risk and in need of repair. Repair permits have been received and the town is waiting for grants and FEMA has engineering plans. Applications are due to WQIP grant program on 7/28. The program was set up in 1949 for LLPD dam. It is funded through taxes and most of the funds have gone to milfoil control. The dam project is estimated at \$900,000. At the next town

board meeting they are working on taking grants that will be announced in the fall. They are looking at a spring 2024 construction date. Because prior work was already done, once the spring leak occurred, the process moved quickly. Unfortunately, these past 2 months have been very dry. John and Patrick are monitoring the water depth daily. The boat launch is ready, Boat Safety Officer is set, just waiting for the water to rise.

Reassessment Notice – Every property in town is being reassessed this year. Craig wants everyone to be aware of assessors and photographers going around town to record property data.

Milfoil Mitigation – the funds are at \$73k-74k with \$40,000 coming from the county. They are trying to get it to a manageable level and with the monitoring program the lake is ahead of the curve.

Introduction of **Lake Safety Officer Rich Koenig** (Cell number 623-251-1393) Rich's major focus is education and talk to boaters about safe boating.

Invasives Management - John Nick started by saying the LLPDA contracts with the town to do many tasks, including buoy placement, dam board placement, and invasive management. The invasives harvest is showing a little higher than last year so far. It is rated in gallons and John feels it is not the best guide. He reiterated the \$40k secured from the county for remediation. He also said there were no water chestnuts found, primarily EWM (Eurasian Watermilfoil).

Boater training – John said that the boater training course was completed for this year. The class included students aged 10 to 81 years old. The boater training course must be completed by all drivers next year. This requirement does not include people who rent boats or jet skis.

Secretary's report: Kevin motioned to approve the minutes of the 5/21/2023 LLPDA meeting. The motion was seconded, all in favor.

Introduction of Vice President, Patrick Reed: Patrick spoke about the whistle requirement for non-motorized vehicles on the lake, i.e., kayakers, paddleboarders. He said whistles that have been ordered with the LLPDA logo. Rich Koenig, Safety Officer, will be promoting the program and handing out the whistles on his patrol.

Patrick also spoke about the importance of lake residents being involved in local issues. He encouraged people to consider registering to vote locally, stressing the importance of getting involved and engaged to have a voice in town and therefore make an impact locally. He mentioned some of the major projects ahead: reassessments, highway building, water production.

Patrick mentioned that the LLPDA has adopted White Schoolhouse Road for clean up and also the triangle in front of OP's for beautification.

John Nick mentioned the passing of Ed Greismer. Ed was the LLPDA president for 6 years prior to John before becoming the President of the Federation of Lakes in NY. Ed was very helpful to John in his leadership, and he is very thankful for his expertise.

Introduction of Gail Danforth – Gail opened with the fishing derby. There were 40 kids participating who caught 113 fish of 6 different species. She wanted to give a shout out to Steve Z and the Fregoe's for their participation.

Gail spoke of the collaboration with the Loon Center for Preservation regarding their donation of fishing line containers for used fishing line found around the lake. She also spoke about the lake being part of a study for loon conservation through a grant. The program includes two interns, SUNY EFS students, who have been out to the nest. They are hoping for 2 chicks that they will watch, monitor, and assess the lake for other loon nesting habitats. They will travel via kayaks being donated by the McGowen family.

Rich McCrum thanked Gail for taking over the newsletter 2 years earlier and her dedication and excellent presentation of it.

Introduction of Barb Kearney – Barb spoke about the LLPDA membership. She said there are currently 208 members for this year: the average annual membership being 320 members. She is hoping for over 300 members this year as well. The program changed a few years ago from \$20 annual fee only to a tiered membership: \$20, \$50, or \$100 which has gathered more support. She talked about joining either online or by check via mail, and a potential subscription service in the future to make it easier and more accessible for people to join. The organization is now a 501C-3, not for profit, which is a tax-deductible donation.

Introduction of Rich McCrum – Boat parade – Rich spoke about the boat parade taking on a different approach. The trophy will be held for one year by the winner and the captain of the boat will get some Loon Lake swag. There will be a \$25 gift certificate from the Marina for entering and showing up. There will be five judging stations for all entries to go by without being identified as to location. At the end the trophy will be presented by the Marina buoy.

Invasives – The program is being re-evaluated. We are doing a pretty good job of managing milfoil, but we need a way to quantify. Of the sites monitored, 20 – 22 have increased 23%, a concern that it is not keeping up. It is spreading out, not just in large patches anymore, but we are basically in a

maintenance mode. The program shows we are doing fairly well, milfoil went down, leveled, and went up slightly. We cannot back off at all. Teams that go out spend about 3 – 5 hours in late September for monitoring if you would like to join a team. Brian Greene, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), says we were the first lake in the Adirondacks to start a program. This year we have contracted with staff, paid for by APIPP, to analyze and compare our records. Bottom line, it looks promising for the future.

Treasurer's report – Mary Flynn: Mary wasn't present but reported a \$36k balance in the account. We are running a surplus in the account and looking at receiving funds from the golf tournament and membership. We are expecting invoices from Aqualogic.

Introduction of Ken Wade – Road Captains: Ken spoke about the Road Captain program, which involves putting a bag on every door in the lake community containing the newsletter and an LLPDA magnet. There are currently 10 volunteers, and they are looking for more.

Committee Volunteers – Kevin reviewed all the committees that the volunteer LLPDA organization operates. Please sign up at the volunteer table. These include, Adopt A Highway, Boat Parade, Boating Safety Course, Buoys, Fishing Derby, Golf Tournament, Lake Level, Water Testing, Website, Milfoil, Membership, Lake Steward Program/Boat Launch, and Invasive Mediation Evaluation Program.

Water testing report 2022/23 – Nancy and Jim Fregoe: Nancy presented the most recent water monitoring from the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program, through Paul Smith's College, who does a comprehensive analysis. They currently analyze 120 lakes in the park. They have studied Loon Lake in June, July, and August for 3 years. The lake is dirtier than last year based on the water not moving, but road salt is on the decline. Information is available at info@adklakes.org

Boat launch/inspection station – The launch is open 7:00am – 6:00pm daily. Currently every boat is logged and checked for invasives with the help of Paul Smith's College.

Listing of LLPDA Activities and Functions – upcoming Summer Social on Friday 7/15 at Green Mansions, Boat Parade on 7/22, Water Carnival on 7/29, Family Hike on 7/30, Marv Cole Memorial Golf Tournament on 8/11 and Loon Lake Ring of fire on 9/2

From the floor – Comments and Questions:

- A comment was made to commend the town officials on the work for the dam. It was also suggested that political pressure is put on government officials at the state and federal level, particularly Senator Chuck Schumer, for funding from the \$1.2 trillion available for infrastructure.
- Craig Leggett, Town Supervisor, said that the APA has approved the cell tower, a frankenpine 90 ft tower, on Van Guilders Road. It will hopefully increase service on Marina Road and East Shore Drive areas.
- A comment that the dam is being repaired, not replaced, called a rehabilitation. It involves drilling down, installing support rods, the face will come off, grouted and patched, and the face replaced with fake rock.
- There was a question about why the coffer dam was not sandbagged and the response was that it would have been a difficult and separate process with the DEC.
- The timing of the repair was questioned. If the repair is done in the spring, the coffer dam would be sandbagged to adjust levels. Seasonal issues like winter freezing and thawing must be considered to ensure the safety of the hamlet and town below the lake. The duration of the project is estimated to be 3 months but could vary.
- Short term rental (STR) issue was discussed. The town accepted a new local law in effect 8/1/23 and is on the town website. It includes mandatory operator registration with the town, rental duration of less than 30 days. It will be advertised via the town website and social media. A fact sheet for renters was suggested.
- It was also suggested that renters are made aware of lake safety, mitigation of invasives and that rental owners be responsible for self-policing their property.
- There is currently a gap between STR requirements and hotel, B&B requirements. With STR, homeowners are responsible for any health inspections, well, unsanitary conditions. They are not inspected by the county unless reported to them.

Adjournment: At 11:20 a motion to adjourn was seconded and approved.